



Weekly Report of Departmental Activities

What's Inside

Airport

[Board of Elections](#)

[Building Inspections](#)

[Clerk to the Board](#)

[Cooperative Extension](#)

[County Manager](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Finance](#)

[Fire Marshal/Emergency Management](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Library](#)

[Public Works and Planning](#)

[Register of Deeds](#)

[Revenue](#)

[Senior Center](#)

[Sheriff's Department](#)

[Social Services](#)

[Soil and Water](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Tourism Development Authority](#)

[Transportation Services \(EMS/Transit\)](#)

[Veteran Services](#)

Building Inspections

Building Inspections has issued 83 permits over the past two weeks totaling \$9,628 in fees and representing \$4,062,410 in construction values. Our inspectors have conducted 292 inspections. The department held another contractor meetings for Mechanical (HVAC) Contractors and General Contractors. The Director also met with a consortium of Building Trades Instructors from R. S. Central, East and Chase High Schools and Isothermal in regards to a collaborative new home construction project which will involve students from all schools to provide hands on experience.

Board of Elections

This week the election staff completed the processing of the provisional ballots and the additional absentee ballots that were postmarked by Election Day. Auditing of the election forms and results is continuing until Canvass on Friday, November 14th at 11:00 a.m.

A sample count was held on Monday, November 10th. Twelve poll workers were brought in to count the paper rolls from two locations to verify that the election equipment functioned properly. As always the rolls balanced perfectly.

Clerk to the Board

Chairman Eckler attended an Isothermal Community College Board meeting at the Foundation on Tuesday.

On Wednesday and Thursday, a tour of County Departments and Facilities was conducted for incoming County Commissioners Mike Benfield, Bryan King, and Alan Toney along with Vice Chairman Eddie Holland and Commissioner Greg Lovelace.

Commissioner Owens visited the South Carolina Inland Port at Greer, SC with Economic Development staff members on Wednesday.

County Commissioners

William Eckler, Chairman
Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman
Greg Lovelace

Julius Owens
Roger Richard

Carl Classen, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board
Richard Williams, County Attorney

County Manager

The County Manager's week was filled with briefings and orientation for the newly elected County Commissioners; department head meetings; conference calls; various interdepartmental meetings; and the monthly Regional County Managers meeting.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff attended the Partnership for Children Executive Committee; attended the Health Summit in Asheville; assisted the Extension & Community Association members in preparing for annual fund raiser; and prepared upcoming educational programs.

Economic Development

The Executive Director prepared and assembled data for a prospect visit; hosted a joint prospect visit with the Chamber of Commerce Director; worked with the County Attorney and the engineer of record to review and revise contract documents for the Gateway West Commerce Park site development project; worked with a local industry and an infrastructure provider regarding a proposed industry expansion; worked with a Department of Commerce representative to provide additional information for a prospect; hosted a luncheon with the new elected commissioners to provide an update on Economic Development activities; attended a meeting with the County Manager to discuss airport activities; and met with the TDA Director.

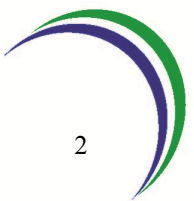
The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via phone calls and email, provided feedback and scheduled upcoming industry visits; researched collaboration options between Prevention Partners, NC Department of Commerce, Center for Healthy NC, and NC Hospital Association for joint effort known as Healthy Together NC; followed up with ICC – HRD on work-ready certification; met with EDC Director to discuss options for existing industry educational seminars for the remainder of the year and 1st quarter 2015; and arranged and participated in a visit to the SC Inland Port with an existing industry (Parton Lumber) and heard presentation from port officials.

The Economic Development Assistant submitted a Building Reuse grant application for a proposed expansion; began assembling a submission for an existing Building Reuse payout application; assisted with preparations to host the new elected commissioner's luncheon; and prepared and distributed the minutes and agendas for the upcoming EDC Board meeting.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant entered additional NC Broadband lack of service surveys received from local schools; gathered documents for and helped assemble information books for product tour visit; and assisted with preparations for the new elected commissioner's luncheon.

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings and a training workshop with the School of Government in Asheville on Wednesday. The Finance Officer and Chief Deputy attended training in Raleigh on Thursday sponsored by the Department of Justice. The Finance Office Staff continues to work closely with the external auditors who are now onsite. The Finance Office is working very closely with DSS now that Crisis and LIEAP Programs have opened. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.





November 12, 2014 - Existing Industry Visit to SC Inland Port, Greer SC (l—r) Byron Miller, VP Marketing & Sales SCPA; Commissioner Julius Owens; Kimberly Clayton, Parton Lumber Export Sales; Patrick Parton, Parton Lumber Co-President; Norman Atchley, Parton Lumber Domestic Sales; Michael Hoffman, Terminal Manager SCPA.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director worked on the S.D.O. map for their planned substation on W.V. Thompson Road; met with Specialized Consulting Services concerning the planning timeline for a table top exercise funded by North Carolina Emergency Management; and began work on an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for 800MHz radios and equipment for fire departments.

Human Resources

The HR Director was out of the office this week. The HR Specialist managed the daily and weekly roles of the department. Applications continue to come in for the vacancies advertised and the job postings can be found on the [County website](#).

Library

From the Director...

Martha continued her work on employee evaluations; compiled the MINUTES from the October Library Board of Trustees; began planning her Thanksgiving program for Life Services Center next week; started purging her office of old files; and gave a tour of the library to the newly elected commissioners with the help of Children's Librarian Jeannie Smith and Library IT Kenneth Odom.

From the Children's Librarian...

Continuing with the theme of "Our Bodies," the children of Story Time have been learning about their five senses this week. Next week is a special treat since Ms. Tracie Crowder with the Health Department is coming to all three Story Times to do a puppet show about healthy teeth. Outreach Story Times are at Spindale Elementary. The Children's Librarian also met with the new Commissioners and worked on rebuilding all her computer files after her hard drive died.

From Library IT...

Kenneth visited two local optometrist offices and talked with their staff about services offered by the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The Library for the Blind, as it is often referred, provides free audiobooks and print material to people with significant vision impairments or those who have a physical handicap that makes it difficult to hold a book.

From the Reference Desk...

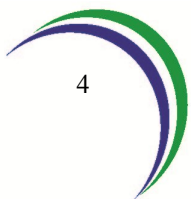
Stephanie Long coordinated the schedule of a student from the REaCH program who did 4 hours of job shadowing at the County Library on Friday, November 7. The student was able to talk with several members of the staff and observe day-to-day operations of the library, both behind-the-scenes and at the front desk.

From the Haynes Branch...

Staff proctored one student this week and did an outreach program at Ellenboro school.

From the Mountains Branch...

The Mountains Library staff have worked on cleaning shelves, rearranging book displays, researching grant information, and ordering new large print books. The Friends of the Library's Annual meeting was attended by 50 people on Saturday, and a new board of officers was elected. We are eagerly awaiting the delivery of our new DVD shelving this Friday.



Revenue

The Revenue Department handled 28 VTS assists. The office answered 380 phone calls and assisted 158 customers. We completed 2 plat reviews. Appraisers completed 227 field reviews. A total of 43 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 76 straits, 6 estates, 36 new accounts, 5 splits, and 4 acreage adjustments. GIS created 8 new maps. The GIS website had 159,033 hits and 113,790 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 4 new addresses, and updated 16 addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance completed maintenance on 9 old signs. 3 informal appeals were sent out and 2 more were received. 2 late listing forms were received. The PUV program mailed 4 letters, and assisted 3 program members. Staff processed 1 exclusions/deferment. We had 23 discoveries. Collection enforcement consisted of 2 bank attachments, and 2 payment plans. 556 mailings and 13 bankruptcy issues were mailed in and processed. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 326 tax payments. 60 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

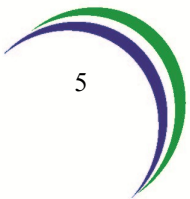
The Senior Center honored veterans in a very special program on Monday. All veterans and their family members were encouraged to attend. Gentiva Home Health sponsored this event and gave each veteran a patriotic pin and certificate. Spindale Elementary Pen Pal Class and RS Central High School MCJROTC & Color Guard and Saber Sword Team did special presentations. Our guest speaker was Ray Pegram, S/Sgt. (Veteran-U.S. Army). On Wednesday, Dr. Larry Hedgepath with Hospice of Rutherford County spoke on "Knowing the Top 10 Signs of Alzheimer's". Out Pen Pals group met on Thursday to write in their journals for Spindale Elementary students. Also on Thursday, a group of seniors enjoyed a trip to the Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte, N.C.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period continues through December 7, and SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, can help Medicare beneficiaries compare plans. The Senior Center has SHIIP counselors that are available to help. Call for an appointment to talk with our trained SHIIP counselors. The main number is 828-287-6409.

Social Services

Income Maintenance staff continue to work hard as the implementation of NC FAST carries on. There are many issues that arise that must be addressed. The conversion process decreases productivity, but efforts are made to prevent a delay in benefits. Additional temporary staff, as well as overtime, have been employed to minimize delays. On Tuesday, a conference call was held with Northwoods Consulting Partners in preparation for the implementation of the case management system for Children's Services in January. The Director attended monthly committee meetings in Raleigh on Wednesday and the statewide Director's Meeting on Thursday. The DSS Leadership Group held it's last meeting on Thursday. The day was spent reviewing various leadership competencies. The graduation for this first DSS Leadership Development Group will be held in January.



Soil and Water

The Admin/Education Specialist worked on the OELC grant paperwork and Farm City plans. The Ag. Cost Share Technician spent the week on construction sites, overseeing installation of BMP's, and planning for new Ag Cost Share contracts.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Landfill served 305 customers, hauled 61 loads from the convenience centers, shipped 29 loads to Lenoir, sent out two recycling trailers and had 31 tire customers. The textile vendor is coming weekly for pickup. The staff at the landfill participated in the yearly state inmate training class, continued working on grants and requests for proposals. We continue to perform work outside the landfill as the rails to trails project is complete, the Edwards property tree pruning has been completed and now we are moving onto the former Owens property to perform trimming maintenance. Other staff members continue to perform everyday job duties. Shop employees continue to perform preventative maintenance on equipment and vehicles. The landfill staff welcome the new commissioners for a tour of the landfill on Wednesday.

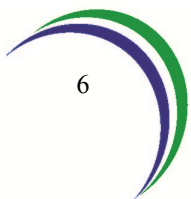
The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is:

Active cases 11
Closed cases 3
Letters sent 3
Citations written 0
Community service workers 5
Community service reports 1

*Please continue to recycle and remember if you have any question on recycling,
please contact us at 828-287-6125.*

Transportation Services

EMS Personnel responded to 164 emergency calls and 61 convalescent calls. Rutherford Regional transitioned to a new linen provider, so EMS worked with the hospital to change out all linens on the ambulances. The monthly meeting was also held with all Supervisors and included the issuing of several new policies for employees. *Stuff the Ambulance* is also underway and promotional material will be going out next week for the toy drive at Wal-mart. Toys will be distributed to foster children through DSS.



Transit operated four days this week with the Veterans Day holiday. They drove 8,612 miles, completed 940 local trips and 84 out of county trips, transported 218 unduplicated passengers and collected \$14,329 in revenue. Camp Electric is installing new energy efficient LED lights this week at Transit (see photo). 90% of the cost of lighting was paid through a NCDOT grant.



GET ON BOARD. Christmas Buses will run all day with stops every **15 minutes** in designated areas for passengers to ride for **FREE** to each downtown in Rutherfordton, Spindale and Forest City to shop locally without the hassle of parking. Plus along the way, receive coupons for stores in each of the towns.

Shuttle service will stop briefly during the Spindale and Rutherfordton parades but will resume immediately after the parades for the **LIGHTS & DINING** shuttle service.

BUS STOP LOCATIONS:

Rutherfordton: Main Street Park
Spindale: Hickory Log BBQ and the Spindale House
Forest City: The Brew House and Santa's House

Sit back- RELAX & enjoy the ride

THIS SERVICE IS BEING BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
Rutherford County Transit, Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce
and the Merchants Associations in Rutherfordton, Spindale and Forest City



Christmas Shuttle

The shuttle is in cooperation with the Chamber and local merchant associations. It will transport passengers to downtown Rutherfordton, Spindale and Forest City to promote *Buy Local for Christmas*. It will also run after the Rutherfordton and Spindale parades to encourage citizen to ride the shuttle to go eat dinner and enjoy the Christmas lights in each of the towns. Posters will be in all department boxes next week. Please hang the poster where citizens can see it.

Veteran Services

The Veteran Services Office had 34 mail-ins, 128 facsimiles, 47 mail-outs, 94 telephone contacts and 190 Veteran contacts.

